

Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of all the presently or formerly pending claims in the application is provided below, with suitable headings to show the status of each claim and, where appropriate, its current text.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A method for the granulation of tablet excipients comprising using ~~The use of~~ an aqueous solution of citric acid and a highly water-soluble sugar as a binder for the granulation of tablet excipients.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The method ~~use~~ as claimed in Claim 1 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono-, di, tri or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerization of less than 20, ~~preferably less than 10~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The method ~~use~~ as claimed in Claim 2 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). The method ~~use~~ as claimed in Claim 3 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). The method use—as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended). The method use—as claimed in Claim 5 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, ~~preferably 5:10 to 10:5~~.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The method use—as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~ in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.

Claim 8 (Original). A composition for compressing into tablets comprising granules of tablet excipients in which the granules comprise citric acid and highly water-soluble sugar as binder.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A composition as claimed in Claim 8 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono-, di, tri or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerization of less than 20, ~~preferably less than 10~~.

Claim 10 (Original). A composition as claimed in Claim 9 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol,

mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (Original). The composition as claimed in Claim 10 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended). A composition as claimed in ~~any one of Claims Claim~~ Claim 8 ~~to 11~~ in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). The composition as claimed in Claim 12 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, ~~preferably 5:10 to 10:5~~.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended). A composition as claimed in any ~~one of Claims Claim~~ Claim 8 ~~to 11~~ in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.

Claim 15 (Original). A tablet comprising granules of tablet excipient in which said granules comprise citric acid and highly water-soluble sugar as binder.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). The tablet as claimed in Claim 15 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono-, di, tri or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerization of less than 20, ~~preferably less than 10~~.

Claim 17 (Original). A tablet as claimed in Claim 16 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (Original). A tablet as claimed in Claim 17 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 15 ~~to 18~~ in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended). A tablet as claimed in Claim 19 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, ~~preferably 5:10 to 10:5~~.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended). A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 15 ~~to 20~~ in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.

Claim 22 (Original). A method of making a tablet comprising the steps of:

- (i) granulating tablet excipients using an aqueous solution of citric acid and a highly water-soluble sugar as a binder,
- (ii) drying the granules and optionally reducing the size of the dried granules,

(iii) compressing said dried granules, optionally with additional tablet excipients in a tablet press to form a tablet, wherein the presence of said highly water-soluble sugar acts as a lubricant/anti-adherent in the tablet press.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended). A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 22 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is based on simple crystalline C5 or C6 sugar structures and is a mono-, di, tri or polysaccharide with a degree of polymerization of less than 20, ~~preferably less than 10~~.

Claim 24 (Original). A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 23 in which the highly water-soluble sugar is selected from glucose, sucrose, maltose, lactose, arabinose, xylose, ribose, fructose, mannose, galactose, sorbose, trehalose, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, maltitol, lactitol, isomaltol, maltodextrin, hydrogenated starch hydrolysed products and mixtures thereof.

Claim 25 (Original). A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 24 in which the sugar is selected from maltitol, lactitol, sucrose, trehalose and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended). A method of making a tablet as claimed in ~~any one of Claims~~ Claim 22 ~~to 25~~ in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 1:10 to 10:1.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended). A method of making a tablet as claimed in Claim 26 in which the weight ratio of citric acid to highly water-soluble sugar is from 2:10 to 10:2, ~~preferably 5:10 to 10:5~~.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended). A method of making a tablet as claimed ~~in any one of Claims~~ Claim 22 ~~to 27~~ in which the citric acid is present in an amount of from 1 to 10% by weight based on the granules.